1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6

[P. 191]

Chapter VII

A. The Land Use Survey of the Maltese Islands

When, in 1954, the decision was made to undertake a programme of geographical research into Maltese agricultural resources and their utilisation, it was also decided to base such a programme on fundamental observational work. The availability of excellent maps on scales of 25 inches, 6 inches and 2 inches to the mile, made it possible to envisage a complete and detailed survey of land use, field by field, plot by plot. Financial exigencies and the need for concentrating work into a short critical period, made it necessary so to plan the first visit as to make the findings representative of the whole range of conditions observable. The work was later extended to cover the full area of the Islands. 311* 121

From the outset, it was realised that work along the lines adopted elsewhere under the World Land Utilisation Survey scheme, while valuable as a first step in regions of considerable extent, would be inadequate under Maltese conditions. Several of the categories suggested by the scheme for use in the Old World (e.g. 6: Unimproved Grazing Land and 7: Woodland) do not exist in Malta while others (e.g. 3: Tree and other Perennial Crops and 4: Crop Land) are too broad to give any indication of regional land use characteristics. The small size of the Maltese Islands has made it possible, despite the minute sub-division of the land to carry out a field-by-field survey of use while at the same time distinguishing all the main crops. It is the combinations of these many different crops which most obviously mark out the different agricultural regions and which make necessary a breakdown of the broader land use categories. It has been appreciated that in many territories suitable conditions do not exist for this 'microscopic' approach, but the authors venture to wonder whether the dangers of more general surveys may not outweigh the value of their findings. These dangers lie not intrinsically in the scale of work but rather in that the findings, if used at all, will generally be used by people who may not appreciate their shortcomings. The problem lies in the gulf between the researcher and those responsible for policies and action.

The survey has been essentially a team effort, directed by the senior authors, the field work being carried out by them with the assistance of the student members of the survey parties (see Introduction, p. 9). It was found that a great deal of useful work could be carried out by the latter, provided that more experienced workers were available to organise and take part in the actual field work and to correlate and interpret the results. The basic method was the plotting of crops actually growing in the fields at the time of the survey (see below) on 6-inch or 25-inch maps. The latter scale was used in parts of Malta where fields are too small to allow the use of the 6-inch scale and throughout Gozo where 6-inch maps are not available. However, the work was not confined to mere crop-plotting, but included the noting of a variety of elements: the quality of the crops, conditions of soil, drainage and water supply, the relationship of crops to rock type, slope, exposure and other physical factors, farming techniques, irrigation methods and the character and extent of rural settlement. A large number of perspective sketches, plots of individual fields, and case studies of farms, a fraction of which are reproduced in the present volume, were made and many photographs taken. Wherever possible, farmers were interviewed and, although this was most easily done when interpreters were available, sufficient farmers with some English were found to extend the scope of this part of the work to cover some 250 individuals. Each day's work was followed by a conference at which points noted by the field workers were discussed and recorded. By these means, sufficient material of all kinds was gathered to permit not only the compilation of an accurate and very detailed record of land use but also a reasoned interpretation of observed fact which could be viewed alongside published official reports and statistical material. The authors so arranged their share of the work that they were able to visit all regions of the 311* 114 [124]

[Text continues on p. 193]

2: Boissevain E-5 (1960-1961) 1965
EZ6 Malta EZ6

proportion of clerics and nuns in the Sixth Electoral District helps to explain the relatively low Labour poll there. It is also a significant factor in explaining the overwhelming defeat of the MLP in Gozo. These two districts have the highest proportion of clerics in the country. The Fourth District, in contrast, has the lowest.

TABLE 7. 1962 Elections:
Occupational Class and Voting Behaviour[1]

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS[2]	SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES (As percentage of total lab. force)			PERCENTAGE LABOUR VOTES
	Professional[3]	*Skilled*	*Agricultural*	
IInd (Senglea, etc.)	4 (3)	45	4	56
IVth (Żurrieq, etc.)	3 (2)	34	11	47
VIth (Birkirkara, etc.)	6 (4)	33	11	24
Xth (Gozo)	7 (6)	16	38	6
All Districts	5 (3)	32	11	34

IV

It will have been observed that there is a certain superficial similarity between the reasons given here for belonging to the MLP and those suggested in the preceding chapter for recruitment into the secondary *festa partiti*. One might expect therefore that in comparison with titular partiti, secondary partiti would have a higher proportion of Labour supporters among their members. Unfortunately, owing to the disturbed political situation prevailing at the time, I was not able to gather satisfactory systematic data on this point. Almost all informants with whom I discussed the matter suggested that secondary partiti did in fact have more pro-Mintoff members than their rivals. But the situation is not quite as straightforward as it might appear. To begin with, the statements of informants varied according to their own political beliefs and their position in relation to the *festa partiti*. Rivals generally tried to place each other in an unfavourable light. Thus an anti-MLP member of a band club supporting a titular feast

[1] Source: *1957 Census: Report on Economic Activities*, pp. 40–111; and *The Malta Government Gazette* (3 March 1962), pp. 385–94.
[2] *IInd* (Cospicua, Senglea, Vittoriosa, Kalkara, Żabbar, M'skala), *IVth* (Żurrieq, Safi, Qrendi, Mqabba, Kirkop, B'buġia, Żejtun, M'xlokk), *VIth* (Birkirkara, Balzan, Lija, Attard, Naxxar, Gharghur).
[3] Percentage of priests, monks and nuns in parenthesis.

NOTES

000 [103] 1. Many settlements in the Islands possess Italian and English names often quite distinct from the local Maltese names. Map 1 gives localities with their names as currently accepted in 'English' usage.

2. v. Appendix 1 A; Map 3; and Graph.

[113] [129] 3. The demographic aspects of Malta's development are considered by Richardson (B/561), while economic factors since 1800 are analyzed by Charlton (b/381). The writer draws from both.

4. Except in the north of Malta where settlements of village status are a product of the past hundred years only.

5. Messrs. Rigg Welts, Ltd.

6. Some impression of the expansion of the Dockyard during the nineteenth century may be gained from Appendix 2 B.

[129] 7. A count, from employment files, was made in March 1957, by the writer and Mr. W.A. Charlton; permission being kindly given by the authorities of (at that time) H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

[114] 8. G.W.S. Robinson (B/564) distinguishes Gozo as possessing a pattern of isolated homesteads (1948), although Appendix 3 does not substantiate this.

9. Reference to O.S.O.S. 2" and 6" to the mile maps is recommended throughout : v. Section 7, Preamble.

10. Including members of the religious Orders, which have been important in Malta for five centuries.

11. v. B/91 and Appendix 4 for details of the extent of the Lay Apostolate in Malta and Gozo.

12. From conversations during field work.

13. "Jiena Malti minn in-Nadur" ('I am a Maltese from Nadur in Gozo').

14. v. B/291 and B/280 for background information.

15. In conversation with Mgr. Salamone.

[342] 16. Windows at ground-floor level were in traditional construction for reasons both of defence and privacy, and therefore provide a helpful dating feature.

[525] 17. Lotto - the popular Government lottery.

[529] 18. 'L-Imnarja' (the word is a corruption of 'Luminaria'), held each June at Buskett, includes a day and night of song and speeches and an agricultural show (v. B/266).

19. Now including the Island of Comino.

[113] 20. As there is in some societies; v. PIDDINGTON, R: "An Introduction to Social Anthropology", London, 1950, pp. 169-270.

21. v. Vegetable cropping chart for the Maltese Islands, published by the Dept. of Agriculture, Malta.

[124] 22. In three cases, the farmer himself or a member of the family wrote the daily account, the originals of which are in B/5. The analyses here given were based on translations of the originals by the writer.

23. For discussion of co-operation in marketing v. Section 4.

24. The wide variety of small rotary cultivators, etc., is excluded.

25. List supplied by the Malta Police.

26. Made 1957) by the writer and Mr. W.A. Charlton.

27. Co-operative for American Remittances to Everywhere, Inc.

28. i.e. the villages.

29. C.A.R.E.[27] Publicity Department Statement, 1957.

30. "Report to the Government of Libya on Indigenous and Italian Farm Enterprises in the Zavia Area". FAO Report No.259, Rome 1954, p.80.

31. Personal communication from Mr. R.W. Hill, Dept. of Geography, Durham Colleges.

32. C.A.R.E.[27] scale of income (as in the Second Distribution, 1957-58, revised):

Family of 3 or 4 persons	....	maximum income	-	£5		
" " 5 to 7 "	....	"	"	-	£5	8s
" " 8 " 10 "	....	"	"	-	£5	15s
" " 11 " 13 "	....	"	"	-	£6	1s
" " 14 " 16 "	....	"	"	-	£6	6s
" " 17 or 18 "	....	"	"	-	£6	10s

33. In addition to the 'General Poor and Needy' category here considered C.A.R.E.[27] supplies went (March, 1958) automatically to 15,181 Old Age Pensioners and to 8,321 individuals on Social Service Assistance.

34. Permission for the writer to make this analysis and much other valuable help was given by Mr. J. Boissevain, Chief of C.A.R.E. Mission in Malta at that time (7 Feb. 1958).

35. (B/168, pp.38-40).

36. i.e. Full-time farmers (B/164 - 1957, pp.20-21), excluding 679 farmers who rendered no census return.

37. Since April, 1958, the Islands have been without a locally elected Government (December, 1959).

38. "Labour Government's Progress Report, 1956-57", Malta, Central Office of Information, 1957, v.p.37.

39. J. McClement in lecture "Aims and Objects of the Dairy Training Course (1957) and the Functions of an Advisory Service", Malta, Dept. of Agriculture, 1957, unpub.

40. "Ghalf Bilanċjat ghall-Majjali" by A.T. Heesler, Chief Agricultural Advisory Officer, 1957, Malta.

41. R.G. Bonnici Enriquez in lecture "The Dairy Industry in the Islands of Malta and Gozo", Malta, Dept. of Agriculture, 1957, unpub.

42. v. Appendix 1 C and 1 D for details of the present trading position.

43. Both Unions were first officially registered in 1948 but these registrations lapsed. The Ghaqda Nazzjonali tal-Bdiewa (1976 members in 1956) was re-registered in 1956 with only 494 members (Dept. of Labour and Social Welfare).

44. Information on the Co-Operative Movement was kindly provided by Mr. Farrugia.

45. Information on Unions, Co-operatives and the Malta Milk Company (K.M.M.) as at Easter, 1958.

46. That is excluding the Farmers' Central Co-operative.

47. The Summaries were compiled by Mr. H. Bowen-Jones and Mr. J.C. Dewdney of the Department of Geography, Durham Colleges, from the field material amassed by Mr. P.K. Mitchell and the writer.

48. As the information on which these Studies are based was given in confidence identities have been purposely obscured.

49. i.e. Tmien, Sigħan and Kejliet ; v. Appendix 5.